

MISSOURI SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

*Advising the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on
Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

Chair

Ms. Lynnette Creed

Vice Chair

Mr. Byron Koster

Secretary

Ms. Kim Gee

June 2018

Dear Citizens of Missouri:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each State Education Agency (SEA) to establish a committee to provide advice regarding programs and services for children with disabilities. The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) serves this capacity for the Special Education Office of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

SEAP represents stakeholders who have specific knowledge of and interest in special education. The Panel and its members play an important role in representing the various constituencies impacted by or that have an interest in special education in Missouri.

The primary function of SEAP is to provide policy guidance on special education and related services and carry out those specific and general functions set forth in law. SEAP exists to perform five enumerated functions:

1. advise DESE of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;
2. provide public comments on any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
3. advise DESE regarding the development of evaluations and reporting of data to the U. S. Department of Education;
4. advise DESE regarding the development of corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports; and,
5. advise DESE regarding the development and implementation of policies related to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

The Panel accomplishes this charge by convening quarterly to review items and offer comments and recommendations related to proposed rules and regulations, advisement of reports to and from the U. S. Department of Education, and other special education issues brought to the Panel.

SEAP's duties, responsibilities, and membership categories are defined in IDEA and include parents of children with disabilities, individuals with disabilities, public school teachers and administrators, representatives of charter and private schools, as well as representatives from various state agencies and organizations.

The work of SEAP occurs at regularly scheduled meetings of the entire Panel as well as subcommittees (Evaluation, Rules and Regulations, Monitoring, Programs, Nominations, and Public Comment). The Panel meeting dates are posted on the DESE website at:
<https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>.

Per Sunshine Law, SEAP's meetings are open to the public. SEAP welcomes and encourages comments from constituents statewide regarding concerns or issues faced by students with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who work with them. When comments are received, they are reviewed by the Public Comment Subcommittee members only and are shared with the Panel at quarterly meetings. The public may submit comments to the Panel via email at: seapcomments@gmail.com.

This letter serves as our annual report to provide an overview of the responsibilities and activities of the SEAP during the 2017-18 school year. The Panel and the Office of Special Education have had an active year. For more complete information about SEAP activities, we encourage a visit to the following website:

<https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/special-education-advisory-panel-seap>.

Below are just a few highlights of SEAP activities:

- **Update on the Facilitated IEP (FIEP)** – Cheryl Thompson, Supervisor, Special Education Compliance Section, presented an update on the FIEP process. For more information about FIEP, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/compliance/facilitated-individualized-education-program-fiep>. The PowerPoint for this presentation is available at: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>.
- **Collaborative Work (CW) and Implementation of Missouri Model Districts (MMD)** – Ginger Henry, Coordinator, Special Education Services and Thea Scott, Director, Special Education Effective Practices Section presented information on CW and the implementation of MMD. For a copy of their PowerPoint presentation and additional information on MMD, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>. For a list of participating districts, go to: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/effective-practices/missouri-model-schoolscollaborative-work>.
- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan Update** – Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator, School Improvement Section presented information on ESSA. For a copy of her PowerPoint presentation, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>. To review the ESSA plan, go to: <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/ESSA-Plan-Final.pdf>.

Citizens of this great state who are interested in serving on SEAP are encouraged to review the membership requirements and consider submitting an application for SEAP membership. Thank you for your continued interest in the academic advancement and well-being of children with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Creed

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Chairperson, 2017-18